

## APPENDIX 3

### **SUMMARY OF THE MAIN ISSUES FROM THE CONSULTATION RESPONSES** **NOVEMBER 2019 RELATING TO THE** **LOCAL SCHOOLS FUNDING FORMULA (LSFF) FOR 2020-21**

**Q1. Do you support the LSFF in 2020-21 continuing to be based, as in 2018-19 and 2019-20, upon the DfE NFF parameters as far as is practicable and affordable subject to the Schools Block DSG available?**

There were **44** responses received from **227** mainstream schools the details of which are in **Appendix 2**. Of these **42** schools were in support.

A summary of the issues from those in support indicated: -

- This gives schools some stability amidst all the uncertainty surrounding funding.
- It acknowledges that the direction of travel is towards the NFF, anticipating the shape of the future funding model.
- Schools are within all the usual limitations able to adjust and prepare for the NFF in due course.
- The direction of travel is towards closer alignment with the NFF, so it is probably pragmatic to support that approach.
- Need to recognise concerns over the impact of the NFF on smaller schools and primary schools, continuing the protections applied previously to minimise significant budget fluctuations, including supporting the MFG, will remain crucial.
- Wish WCC to continue campaigning vigorously for a fairer allocation of schools funding.
- Fully support the NFF parameters to be adopted as has been the case for the past two years.
- Changing this now would create greater instability which schools can ill afford with budgets already very tight.
- It places schools in a far better position when mindful of the NFF becoming mandatory in the future.
- It is important schools have stability.
- Very much support stability in funding and the NFF formula.
- The NFF was put in place to ensure fairer funding for schools. There is a reason why certain schools are allocated more than others within the formula, namely that they serve more disadvantaged and diverse communities and hence require more resource.
- Pleased to see that the NFF formula for 2020-21 should be introduced without a gains cap '*so that schools could attract their full core allocations under the formula*'.
- Concerned that in affording the DfEs Minimum Funding Levels (MFLs) for schools this will likely mean introducing a cap. Why does one 'rule' contradict another? Why do the schools who require the further resource have to potentially subsidise others?
- Schools need as much stability as possible. The NFF suggests our school has been under-funded and would benefit under a hard formula.
- Primarily for stability in what has already been considerable change.

- Stability is the priority – but this response is based on the understanding that under the LSFF, the MFG is pretty much secure and cannot be reduced by the LA (except through ESFA intervention).
- Believe that all schools will benefit from the stability of the current LSFF continuing in 2020-21.
- Applying the DfE NFF values will allow schools to receive any increased per pupil funding on a fair basis.
- Many schools will have used the LSFF applied in 2018-19 as a basis for the medium-term budget strategy and continuing with this will help to provide budget stability.
- Understand that some schools' funding will need to be subject to capping to meet the minimum per pupil funding requirement and that this is necessary and fair, for affordability.
- The stability offered by this approach is welcome.
- Having had the difficulties of the last consultation need to maintain the current stability in the system.
- The need for stability as the DfE moves towards a hard NFF is essential.
- To ensure continuity of approach from previous years and to avoid potential instability and variance in budgeting allocation. Also believe this approach mitigates against increased risk.
- Are aware that the funding is linked to many parameters, and the final calculation will reveal the effect on the schools projected funding.
- The DfE parameters in the NFF were not fair in 18-19 or 19-20, so it is unlikely that they will become fair for 2020-21 without significant review, but this is the only game in town.

For a school not in support it was indicated that the DfE parameters set in 2018-19 and 2019-20 have not been sufficient to adequately support school's financial needs.